

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disposable diaper capable of being put on from either the front or the back of a wearer comprising:

a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet, a liquid retentive
5 absorbent member interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet,

said diaper having a pair of longitudinal side portions and a pair of longitudinal
end sections, with each respective side portion and end section having a side edge, and a
crotch section having two side edges being positioned between said pair of longitudinal
end sections, with each of the crotch section's two side edges containing an arched side
10 edge,

a fastening tape provided on each respective side edge of each longitudinal end
section, and each longitudinal side section of the diaper containing both a standing
gather and a leg gather; provided that:

a ratio of the minimum width W1 of the crotch section of the diaper to a whole
15 width W2 of the longitudinal end section having the fastening tapes provided on each
side edge thereof is from 0.30 to 0.75,

the minimum width W1 is in an area extending from a centerline across the
diaper that divides a total length of the diaper in two equal halves toward both the
longitudinal end sections thereof by $\pm 10\%$ of the total length of the diaper, and

an area ratio of S1 to S2 is from 0.45 to 0.60, where S1 is an area of a region
surrounded by an imaginary straight line L1 which passes through a midpoint P on one
of the arched side edges of the crotch section of the diaper, in which the crotch section
is divided into equal halves, an imaginary straight line L2 which intersects with the line
L1 at right angles and passes through an end point Q of the arched side edge of the
20 crotch section on a side of the crotch section nearest the longitudinal end section of the
diaper having the fastening tapes provided on each side edge thereof, and the arched
side edge of the crotch section, and S2 is an area of a region surrounded by the line L1,
the line L2, and an imaginary straight line L3 which connects the midpoint P and the
end point Q.

2. The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal end section having the fastening tape provided on each respective side edge thereof, has a pair of extensible side parts which are elastically extensible and contractible in the diaper width direction and are provided in the area between the fastening tapes such that one of the extensible side parts is in a first side flap in the longitudinal end section having the fastening tapes, and the other extensible side part is in a second side flap in the longitudinal end section having the fastening tapes.
3. The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of a distance W3 from a fixed end of one of the standing gathers to the nearest arched side edge of the crotch section thereto, in the minimum width W1 of the crotch section, to the whole width W2 of the diaper, $W3/W2$, is from 0.1 to 0.2.
4. The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein the minimum width W1 of the crotch section of the diaper is from 100 to 240 mm.
5. The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein means for tearing the diaper is provided in both side parts of the diaper that are between the fastening tapes and which are configured to be brought into contact with a side of the wearer.
6. The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein the fastening tape has a turn-up tab at a free end thereof.